

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 13 and 14 as follows:

FIG. 4A and FIG. 4B illustrate an inflatable cannula holder 30 having, for example, multiple C-shaped trocar sleeves or cannulas incorporated within the unit 30. The lateral wall 34 of the inflatable cannula holder unit 30 may vary from extremely flexible and stretchable when deflated, thus facilitating insertion into the umbilical incision, to somewhat rigid when inflated during the surgical procedure. The inflatable unit 30 has, for example, a horizontal upper plate 31 and a horizontal lower plate 32. Curved or arcuate trocar sleeves or cannulas 33a, 33b, and 33c will extend through separate and mutually spaced apertures (not designated) in the horizontal upper plate 31 and separate and mutually spaced apertures (not designated) in the horizontal lower plate 32 and may be incorporated within the lateral wall 34. Cannulas 33a, 33b, 33c may be rigid or flexible members. One or more straight trocar sleeves or cannulas 33d may also be provided which traverse holder unit 30 and particularly upper surface 31 and lower surface 32 thereof. Any given straight cannula 33d may be rigid or flexible. In the latter case, the cannula 33d may be sufficiently flexible to bend in conformation to a generally C-shaped section 20 or 21 (FIG. 2C) of laparoscopic instrument 10. Shaft 10a or section 20, 21 thereof is either rigid or has a sufficient rigidity to force the bending of cannula 33d. One of more of cannulas 33a, 33b, and 33c may similarly be flexible members with a memory tending to return the cannulas to a straight or arcuate configuration.

Amend the paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23 as follows:

Wall 186 is connected to plate member 182 all along edge 184. Wall has a longitudinal axis 188, with plate member 182 extending substantially transversely to

that axis. Plate member 182 is provided with a plurality of separate and mutually spaced apertures or port members 190, 192 for receiving respective elongate laparoscopic instruments 194 and 196. Instrument 194 is configurable to have an S-shaped shaft 198 and may specifically take the form of the instruments discussed with reference to FIG. 9 and 10-11F. Instrument 196 is a fiberoptic instrument including a camera 200 in the form of a charge coupled device and a bendable shaft 202. Shaft 202 has a proximal end portion 260 and a distal end portion 262 that may be independently flexed into continuous smooth C-shaped configurations as shown in the drawing. Alternatively, shaft 202 may be substantially identical to shaft 132 of the instrument shown in Fig. 10. The rotational capability discussed above with reference to operative tip 150 and joint 158 may be omitted from laparoscope 196. Laparoscope 196 has an operative tip 264 provided with the usual illumination aperture and imaging lens (neither shown). Actuators are omitted from the depiction in Fig. 12 of instruments 194 and 196 for purposes of simplicity. An actuator for controlling the operative tip 264 of laparoscope 196 may take the form of conventional controls for illumination and CCD operation, where a CCD is located at the operative tip of the device.

Amend the first full paragraph (lines 15-20) on page 34 as follows:

As illustrated in FIG. 14, a flexible plate member 224 of a cannula and instrument holder 226 similar to that of FIGS. 12 and 13 has separate and mutually spaced apertures 228 provided with rigid port members or cannulas 230 serving in part to elongate the apertures. Port members or cannulas 230 have a curvilinear or arced shape along their longitudinal dimensions and have flanges 232 and 234 that extend outside of plate member 224. Plate member 224 has a height H3 in a direction parallel to an axis 236 of the cannula and instrument holder, which is at least as great as heights H4 and H5 of extension flanges 232.